



Connections - January 25, 2023



Members of the CCKids Advocacy Team attended Legislative Delegation Meetings last week in Martin and St. Lucie counties. In the picture above, CEO Carol Deloach addresses Rep. Dana Trabulsy and Sens. Gayle Harrell and Erin Grall about a glitch in legislation that prevented the local dependency system from receiving any of the new funding awarded to the state's network of Community Based Care systems during the 2022 legislative session. Click through our recently published [Annual Report](#) for more information.

Prevention Program Demonstrates Potential to Keep Kids Out of Foster Care, Detention

Port St. Lucie – Communities Connected for Kids made several improvements to its system in 2022 that have the potential to keep children out of foster care.

Among services with the most potential is Family Functioning Therapy, an

evidence-based, short-term family treatment model for young people at risk of entering the dependency or juvenile justice systems.

Locally, the program serves 11-17 year-old youth and their families and is administered by Camelot Community Care, one of the many agencies already part of CCKids' extensive provider network.

"We decided to invest in this program because of its evidence-based and family-centered approach to addressing youth substance use issues, mental health concerns, trauma-based issues and family conflict," said CCKids Chief Operating Officer Cheri Sheffer. "It's scientifically proven to help at-risk youth and their families overcome behavior problems, conduct disorder, substance abuse and delinquency."

The program started officially in October 2021 and serves each of CCKids' four communities of Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties.

It's already making a difference in the lives of young people, said Leslie Serena, Camelot Community Care Executive Director. She said Camelot is excited to partner with CCKids to create opportunities for families to improve their communication and relationships.

"It has improved me a lot," a young person recently in the program said. "I learned new techniques on how to communicate with my family and different ways to act."

Locally, program results from the first year show potential for greater use over time. An average of seven families were referred to the program per month, with the year's total referrals coming in at 84.

Most of those referrals were from child protective investigators, demonstrating a trust in the program that CCKids officials hope will prevent more families from coming into the dependency system.

"When investigators trust a program and its record for safety, they are less likely to remove children from their homes," said Christina Kaiser, CCKids Community Relations Director. "And that means fewer children in foster care."

Results from the first year include an engagement rate of 65 percent and a successful completion rate of 13 percent.

"We are reviewing these outcomes against industry standards and will be working with Camelot to increase awareness of and engagement in the program this year," Sheffer said.

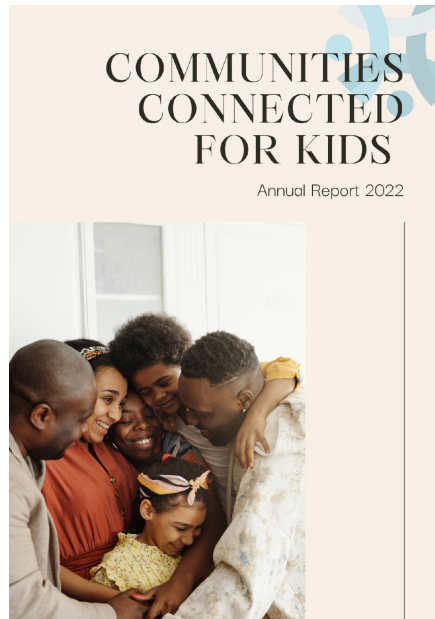
Establishing new prevention programs takes time, she said.

"We're looking forward to seeing the positive impacts from FFT in the lives of many families"

CCKids Releases 2022 Annual Report

CCKids' released its 2022 Annual Report earlier this week, providing a peek into the system of care's performance during the last 12 months.

The report, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#), includes financial overviews by Chief Executive Officer Carol Deloach and Chief Financial Officer Lauren Hahn as well as a listing of donations made during the organization's fiscal year.



Achievements, such as increases in adoptions and the number of children safely served in their own homes, can also be found in the report.



Sunshine Health Offers New Benefits

By Lisa McBride, RN, BSN
CCKids Nurse Care Coordinator

If you are a foster parent or caregiver in CCKids' community of care, you probably are familiar with the Sunshine Health \$25 over-the-counter benefit for products like toothbrushes, diaper wipes and vitamins.

New this year, Sunshine - the organization that coordinates health insurance for the child-welfare system - has partnered with CVS to make the benefit available on-site at community CVS locations. Check out the [Sunshine website](#) for more details, including how to order these products.

Looking for the kinds of things you can order with the new benefit? Click [here](#) for the 2023 catalogue of items available. Or, if you have any questions, call Sunshine member services at (855) 463-4100.

Community Connections



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Open Expo & Networking

February 16
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
2nd Floor



NARCAN Training

By Ritelife Services
2nd Floor
Conference Room

10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

Mindfulness Seminar

By Mindi Fetterman
Inner Truth Project
3rd Floor Training Room

11 a.m.

Noon

1 p.m.



Calling all helpers! Don't miss out - come learn about the important resources in our community designed to keep families out of the dependency system. Stop by for a few minutes or stay longer and let us treat you to lunch! Learn about NARCAN use or attend a mindfulness seminar. You'll leave with knowledge, training hours and a full belly! Register through the link below, but hurry: We are nearly to capacity!

[REGISTER HERE](#)